

Special Meeting  
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 4:30 PM

Dr. Matthew Prophet Education Center -  
Windows Cafeteria / Conference Room (Floor  
2)  
501 N. Dixon St.  
Portland, OR 97227

## **Agenda**

1. 4:45 pm - Resolution to Authorize Amendment of the 2021-2022 School Calendar *Vote -  
Public Comment Accepted*

## **RESOLUTION No. 6433**

### Resolution to Authorize Amendment of the 2021-2022 School Calendar to include January 31, 2022, as a school climate work day for school staff

#### **RECITALS**

- A. Board Policy 3.20.010, Annual Calendar, states, “after Board approval, any modification of the [annual school] calendar will be made consistent with applicable provisions of the collective bargaining agreement and shall require final Board action.”
- B. Portland Public Schools’ recognizes the unusual and challenging year that students, educators, families, and our communities are in, brought on by the pandemic. Locally, we began the year in a COVID surge due to the Delta variant. Increasingly, we are experiencing another significant COVID surge due to the Omicron variant.
- C. The dynamic and unprecedented needs this year demand flexible responses and solutions. The District recommends that Monday, January 31, 2022, be converted from a regular school day to a staff collaboration and planning day so that schools can continue working on school climate plans and instructional practices to support the needs of their students.
- D. Changing January 31 to a mandatory professional development day on the calendar may have an impact on Required Instructional Time under OAR 581-022-2320. A regularly scheduled school day constitutes approximately 6 hours of instruction time in high school, 5.5 hours in middle school, and 5.25 hours in elementary school. Schools that transition to distance learning or have partial day schedule changes, and of course inclement weather, can impact our scheduled instructional minutes.
- E. Throughout this year, schools have been encumbered by exhaustive and changing safety protocols and requirements to protect our students, staff, and communities from COVID. Staffing shortages, exacerbated by an unprecedented lack of substitutes to cover for absences, communicable disease symptom exclusions and quarantines, and the heightened academic and social needs of our students returning to full time in-person school, have decimated planning and preparation time necessary for school staff to create consistent, reliable, and responsive school climates and systems of support for students.
- F. Portland Public Schools is challenged to create the conditions for school staff to thrive as we serve students in-person. Staff well-being is strained. Several schools have had to temporarily transition to distance learning as staffing shortages and staff and student absences have increased with COVID cases. We know that students’ academic, social, mental, physical, and emotional health and well-being depend on our schools. To keep schools open, we must offer healthy spaces and resources for all students and staff.

#### **RESOLUTION**

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to change the school calendar to convert January 31, 2022, from a student contact day to a staff work day focused on school climate and instructional planning.